

Application Serial No. 10/743,125
Amendment dated February 1, 2006
Reply to Office Action of September 1, 2005

The following listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (New): A retractor comprising:

a shaft;

an inflatable bladder which is eccentric or eccentrically mounted on the shaft; and

a cannula having a passage which receives the shaft to deploy the bladder at a target site in tissue.

Claim 12 (New): A retractor as in claim 11, wherein the inflatable bladder is shaped so that it expands into an eccentric shape when inflated by fluid pressure introduced through the shaft.

Claim 13 (New): A retractor as in claim 12, wherein the inflatable bladder does not stretch when fully inflated.

Claim 14 (New): A retractor as in claim 11, wherein the inflatable bladder operates at inflation pressure from 10 mmHg to 1000 mmHg.

Claim 15 (New): A retractor as in claim 14, wherein the inflatable bladder operates at inflation pressure from 100 mmHg to 1000 mmHg.

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Claim 16 (New): A retractor as in claim 11, wherein the shaft is rigid.

Claim 17 (New): A retractor as in claim 11, wherein the shaft is flexible.

Claim 18 (New): A retractor comprising:

a shaft;

an inflatable bladder which is eccentric or eccentrically mounted on the shaft; and

a plurality of inflatable bladders positioned on the shaft.

Claim 19 (New): A retractor as in claim 18, wherein the plurality of inflatable bladders are separately inflatable.